



September 20, 2016

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Lansing, MI

Re: SB 1029, 1030, 1076, 1077, 1078

Dear Committee members,

The Michigan Environmental Council (MEC), a coalition of more than 70 member organizations across the state, supports SB 1029, 1030 and 1076-1078 as these bills help protect vulnerable roadway users including bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users and create clear standards for safe passing distances.

Michigan has sadly seen a startling increase in bicycle fatalities and injuries over the past two years. In June, inexplicable tragedy struck the Kalamazoo region. An out-of-control driver mowed down nine experienced bicyclists, killing five and seriously injuring four others. In addition to this horrific tragedy, 13 other bicyclists have died due to vehicle accidents through August 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, and many other have been injured. Bicycle fatalities in Michigan jumped 57 percent in 2015 alone.

These tragedies can be prevented, and these bills provide an opportunity to help decrease fatalities and injuries to bikers. 39 other states have laws similar to SB 1029 and 1030 in place today. Michigan is woefully behind these other states, and supporting these bills will catch us up to the rest of the country when it comes to safety for the most at risk road users.

We urge the committee to support this bill package and move Michigan forward in offering all roadway users safe trips on the roads. Whether it is for a commute, fitness, or recreation, all roadway users deserve a sense of safety when using Michigan's roads.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean Hammond".

Sean Hammond  
Deputy Policy Director